UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

CIVIL ACTION NO.:

THOMAS KELLEY, Plaintiff,)	05	10596 NMG
VS. TOWN OF PLYMOUTH and ROBERT J. POMEROY, as Chief of the Plymouth Police Department and Individually, Defendants.)		AMOUNT \$ 360 CO SUMMONS ISSUED NA LOCAL RULE 4.1 WAIVER FORM MCF ISSUED BY DPTY. CLK. M.F. DATE

DEFENDANTS' NOTICE OF REMOVAL OF ACTION FROM STATE COURT

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1441(b) and 1446, defendants petition for removal of this action to the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts. As grounds

MAGISTRATE JUDGE (155)

therefore, the defendants state as follows:

- 1. On or about March 7, 2003, the plaintiff filed this suit in the Plymouth Superior Court, Civil Action No. 02-1859.
- 2. On March 11, 2005, the plaintiffs' complaint was served upon the defendants. Attached as Exhibit A is a copy of the plaintiffs' complaint and summons, which were served upon the defendants.
- 3. In the complaint, the plaintiff alleges "42 U.S.C. §1983 provides a cause of action for the violation of a citizen's rights protected by the Constitution of the United States."
- 4. Because this matter is an action arising under federal law of which this Court has original jurisdiction, as authorized by 28 U.S.C. §1331, it is subject to removal under 28 U.S.C. §1441(b).

This Notice of Removal is being filed within the time period required by 5. law, 28 U.S.C. §1446(b).

> Respectfully submitted, Defendants, By their attorney,

Leonard H. Kesten, BB0# 542042

BRODY, HARDOON, PERKINS & KESTEN, LLP One Exeter, Plaza, 12th Floor Boston, MA 02116

(617) 880-7100

Dated: March 28, 2005

PLY WORSE, 1:05-cv-10596-MBB Document 1-2 SUPERIOR CO28/2005 Page 1 of 18
TRIAL COURT THE COMMONWEALTH
CIVIL ACTION NO. 05-0278B

Thomas M. Kelley	
Plaintiff(s	5)
vs.	
Town of Plymouth & Robert J. Pome	eroy as
Chief of Police & Individually	it(s)
<u>ទូរ</u> ៈ	YIMONS
You are hereby summoned and required to se attorney, whose address is 34 Main St. Ext.	omeroy, Individually, Plymouth Police ng Pond Rd,, Plymouth Joseph R. Gallitano, Plaintiff's Plymouth MA 12360 swer to the complaint
which is herewith served upon you, within 20 days aft	er service of this summons upon you, exclusive of the day
of service. If you fail to do so, judgment by default will complaint. You are also required to file your answer to	t be taken against you for the relief demanded in the the complaint in the office of the Clerk of this court at
Plymouth either before service upon plaintiff attorn	ney or within a reasonable time thereafter.
you may have against the plaintiff which arise	r answer must state as a counterclaim any claim which is out of the transaction or occurrence that is the subject be barred from making such claim in any other action.
Witness, Barbara J. Rouse Esquire, at Plymou	
	•
March in the year of our L	ord Two thousand and five.
NOTES	French R. Fowers
This summons is issued pursuant to Rule 4 of	the Massachusetts Rules of Civil Procedure.
 When more than one defendant is involved, the If a separate summons is used for each defendant defendant. 	e names of all defendants should appear in the caption. ant, each should be addressed to the particular
	action involved-Tort-Motor Vehicle Tort-Contract-
PROOF OF SERV	TCE OF PROCESS
together with a copy with a copy of the complaint in thi following manner (See Mass. R. Civ. P. 4(d)(1-5):	s action, upon the within-named defendant in the
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Dated: , 2004	Theur I I
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	ON DEFENDANT IN THIS BOX ON THE ORIGINAL
	, 2004

Case 1:05-cv-10596-MBB Document 1-2 Filed 03/28/2005 Page 3 of 18 ommonwealth of Massachu tts

County of Plymouth
The Superior Court

CIVIL DOCKET# PLCV2005-00278-B

RE: Kelley v Plymouth et al

TO:Joseph R Gallitano, Esquire 34 Main St Extension Suite#202 Plymouth, MA 02360

TRACKING ORDER - F TRACK

You are hereby notified that this case is on the **fast (F) track** as per Superior Court Standing Order 1-88. The order requires that the various stages of litigation described below must be completed not later than the deadlines indicated.

STAGES OF LITIGATION

DEADLINE

Service of process made and return filed with the Court Response to the complaint filed (also see MRCP 12) All motions under MRCP 12, 19, and 20 filed All motions under MRCP 15 filed All discovery requests and depositions completed All motions under MRCP 56 served and heard Final pre-trial conference held and firm trial date set Case disposed	06/07/2005 08/06/2005 08/06/2005 08/06/2005 01/03/2006 02/02/2006 03/04/2006 05/03/2006
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The final pre-trial deadline is <u>not the scheduled date of the conference</u>. You will be notified of that date at a later time.

Counsel for plaintiff must serve this tracking order on defendant before the deadline for filing return of service.

This case is assigned to session B sitting in CtRm 1 (Court Street, Plymouth) at Plymouth Superior Court.

Dated: 03/09/2005

Francis R. Powers Clerk of the Courts

BY: Adam Baler Assistant Clerk

Location: CtRm 1 (Court Street, Plymouth)

Telephone: (508) 747-6911

Disabled individuals who need handicap accommodations should contact the Administrative Office of the Superior Court at (617) 788-8130

Check website as to status of case: http://ma-trialcourts.org/tcic

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COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

PLYMOUTH, ss.	SUPERIOR COURT C.A. NO. 05-0278B			
THOMAS M. KELLEY, Plaintiff,	COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS SUPERIOR COURT DEPT. OF THE TRIAL COURT			
THE TOWN OF PLYMOUTH, and ROBERT J. POMEROY, as Chief of the Plymouth Police	PLYMOUTH COUNTY MAR - 9 2005			
Department and Individually, Defendants.	Ent R Fores			

VERIFIED COMPLAINT

- 1. The Plaintiff, Thomas M. Kelley (hereinafter "Kelley"), is an individual residing at 119 Arlington Rd., Plymouth, Plymouth County, MA 02360.
- 2. The Defendant, Town of Plymouth (hereinafter "Plymouth"), is a duly incorporated municipality in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, with a usual place of business at Plymouth Town Hall, 11 Lincoln Street, Plymouth, MA.
- 3. Mark Silvia, is the Town Manager and Chief Executive Officer for the Town of Plymouth, with a place of business at Plymouth Town Hall, 11 Lincoln Street, Plymouth, MA, and Eleanor Beth was serving as Town Manager at the time of the alleged incident set forth herein and Lawrence Pizer serves as Town Clerk for the Defendant, Plymouth, with offices at 11 Lincoln Street, Plymouth, MA and is the authorized officer for receipt of service of process in matters of litigation, involving the Town of Plymouth, and Kenneth A. Tavares as Chairman of the Board of Selectman and Chief Elected Officer of Plymouth, with a place of business at Plymouth Town Hall, 11 Lincoln Street, Plymouth MA.

4. The Defendant, Chief Robert J. Pomeroy (hereinafter "Pomeroy"), individually, who resides at 244 Valley Road, Plymouth, Plymouth County, MA, and in his official

Case 1:05-cv-10596-MBB

capacity as Chief of Police, Plymouth Police Department, who at all times relevant to the Complaint was the Chief of Police for the Plymouth Police Department, with a usual place of business at 20 Long Pond Road, Plymouth, MA 02360.

FACTS

- 5. Kelley, was appointed as a Police Officer in the Town of Plymouth on September 19, 1977.
- 6. On May 25, 2003, Pomeroy ordered members of the Plymouth police force to participate in an extremely rigorous and physically demanding drill situation, simulating the Columbine hostage incident in Colorado, in which students in a high school held various parties as hostage and were heavily armed at the time.
- 7. The drill situation was conducted at the Plymouth North High School on the aforesaid date and Kelley was required to participate in the drill.
- 8. Previous to May 25, 2003, there had been a substantial record of Kelley's physical impairment. He had already contracted Lyme Disease, and he was suffering from Meniere's Disease. Kelley was taking medication for both conditions.
- 9. Pomeroy and Plymouth were well aware of Kelley's medical condition at the time that Kelley was ordered to participate in the drill.
- 10. During the drill on May 25, 2003, Kelley experienced a heart incident similar to a heart attack, causing him to collapse and requiring him to be hospitalized.
- 11. Kelley was taken to the Jordan Hospital for emergency treatment and then transferred to Beth Israel Hospital in Boston for treatment, where he underwent heart

surgery on May 26, 2003. As a result of said injury, Kelley was forced to accept a disability retirement.

- 12. Kelley's retirement was approved by the Plymouth Retirement Board on the basis of an Independent Medical Panel, appointed and assigned by the State Retirement System that concluded that the cardiac incident he suffered, was a direct result of the May 25, 2003, Columbine drill. This left Kelley with a permanent disability, making it impossible for him to serve as a police officer any longer in Plymouth.
- 13. The Independent Medical Panel also determined that Kelley's injury suffered on May 25, 2003, was an injury in the line of duty under Chapter 41, Section 111F, and thus he was entitled to any medical benefits related thereto as well as to his disability retirement.
- 14. Prior to the May 25, 2003, drill, the Plymouth Police Union ("Union"), through its president and other representatives, approached Pomeroy and requested that he institute a protocol to review members of the force who might not be physically able to undergo such a rigorous and stressful drill situation.
- 15. The Union advised Pomeroy that there were members of the force who had existing medical conditions that could possibly put them at risk for injury, some of which could even be life threatening.
- 16. Pomeroy refused to establish or institute any type of protocol and insisted that all members of the force would take part in the drill regardless of their medical situation or previous medical history.
- 17. After he was approved for disability retirement, Kelley submitted a request for reimbursement for vacation time he had to use before he was relieved of duty and put officially on disability. Under Mass. General Laws Ch. 41, Section 111F, Kelley was

entitled to reimbursement of \$2,000.00 for vacation days he had to use for sick leave, after May 25, 2003.

- Pomeroy refused to reimburse Kelley as requested. Moreover, the Personnel 18. Board of the Town of Plymouth refused to authorize the reimbursement because Pomeroy refuted that Kelley's injury was a result of the May 25, 2003, Columbine-like drill.
- Pomeroy maintained that Kelley's use of vacation benefits as sick time was not 19. related in any way to an injury on duty.
- Pomeroy made this determination in bad faith because he had been informed that 20. the Independent Medical Panel had in fact ruled Kelley's injury was on duty and directly related to the May 25, 2003, drill.
- About a year before the drill, Kelley in his capacity as a Town Meeting Member 21. and a member of the Plymouth Retirement Board, raised an issue regarding Pomeroy's use of funds to reimburse himself for benefits that were not included as part of his income and should have been shown as income to him in his departmental budget. Kelley alleged Pomeroy was accepting compensation and not showing it in his budget in a manner that was prohibited by statute.
- Kelley reported this situation to the Inspector General's Office of the 22. Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The Office investigated the matter and reported to the Town that the manner in which Pomeroy was compensating himself for educational benefits without declaring it under the line item budget area for compensation to him for income and without authorization per a by-law or written agreement with the Town was inappropriate and in violation of state law, and required Town Meeting action to correct the situation.

CAUSES OF ACTION

VIOLATION OF THE STATE WHISTLE BLOWER STATUTE COUNT I: M.G. L. Chap. 149, Sec. 185

- Kelley repeats and reavers paragraphs 1 through 27 as if expressly set forth fully 28. herein.
- Kelley is an employee under M.G.L. 149, Section 185, and his activities in 29. reporting violations and improprieties of other employees and supervisors was an activity protected by the statute.
- Pomeroy's failure to pay for Kelley's vacation time under a Chapter 41, Section 30. 111F, the failure to screen members of the police force and prevent Kelley in particular from participating in the aforesaid strenuous and stressful drill, were retaliatory in nature.
- Said retaliation by Pomeroy was because Kelley reported Pomeroy to the 31. Inspector General's Office.
- Pomeroy's denial and the denial by the Plymouth Town Manager at that time, 32. Pamela Nolan, of Chapter 41 Section 111F funds due Kelley was also retaliatory.
- All aforesaid actions were in violation of Chapter 149, Section 185, which 33. prohibits retaliatory actions against employees who have reported wrongdoing to a disciplinary body/office or public policy-making body such as the Inspector General's Office.
- As a result of the actions taken by Plymouth through its Town Manager and 34. Pomeroy, Kelley is entitled to triple damages, attorney's fees and reasonable court costs.
- Kelley's claims include the payment of all vacation time as well as payment for 35. loss of all salary and benefits for the sixteen years he would have served to his normal retirement date, all in an amount of approximately \$220,000.00.

Wherefore, Kelley demands a judgment for treble damages, both compensatory and punitive, against the Defendants in an amount this Court deems just and appropriate with interest, and cost of this action including attorney's fees.

COUNT II: GROSS NEGLIGENCE, WILLFUL, WANTON AND RECKLESS CONDUCT

- The Plaintiff repeats and reavers paragraphs 1 through 35 as if expressly set forth 36. fully herein.
- The actions of the Town of Plymouth and the Plymouth Police Department, 37. through Pomeroy, by failing to screen the members of the Department who would be taking part in the drill, in which the men were to be put through a rigorous, physically demanding, and stressful drill involving a hostage situation similar to the Columbine incident, resulted in Kelley suffering a cardiac incident and life-altering injury.
- It was well known by Pomeroy and other supervisory members of the Police 38. Department, and well documented in Kelley's personnel file, that he had several physical illnesses for which he was being treated and being medicated; and therefore, that his participation in such an activity would place him at great risk.
- The Defendants owed Kelley a duty of care not to expose him needlessly to a 39. dangerous exercise considering his pre-existing conditions.
- The decisions to make all members of the Department, regardless of their physical 40. condition, participate in this exercise was willful, wanton, and reckless conduct by Plymouth, its Police Department, and in particular Pomeroy.
- Specifically, the Town, through Pomeroy, was negligent by failing to institute a 41. protocol to screen members of the department who would be at risk due to existing medical conditions known to the department.

- The aforesaid negligence of the Defendants was the proximate cause of Kelley's 42. injuries.
- Said acts were also intentional in nature, constituting retaliation against a whistle 43. blower.
- The Defendants' action forced Kelley into an early disability retirement, which 44. was not his choice and denied him another sixteen years of service, depriving him of 20% of his salary over the next sixteen years, as well as benefits and contribution to his normal retirement, resulting in a loss of income to him in excess of \$200,000.00.

Wherefore, Kelley demands a judgment for damages, both compensatory and punitive, against the Defendants in an amount this Court deems just and appropriate with interest, and cost of this action including attorney's fees.

VIOLATION OF PLAINTIFF'S RIGHTS UNDER THE Count III: 14TH AMENDMENT EQUAL PROTECTION UNDER THE LAW AND HIS RIGHTS UNDER 42 USC, SECTION 1983

- Kelley repeats and reavers paragraphs 1 through 44 as if expressly set forth fully 45. herein.
- Kelley's constitutional rights were violated in that no other member in a similar 46. position of the Department or any other employee in the Town of Plymouth in a similar position, has been treated in such fashion and therefore the actions of the Town were in violation of his 14th Amendment Rights, as well as federal statutes protecting him from such treatment and providing for equal protection under the law.
- Kelley was routinely harassed by Pomeroy and treated differently then other 47. officers in the Plymouth Police Department by monitoring his every movement on a daily

basis. See Affidavit of Kevin Fahey, annexed hereto and made a part hereof and marked as Exhibit A.

- Kelley served on the Plymouth Retirement Board, as did other Town employees. 48. But, contrary to standard operating procedures, Plymouth and Pomeroy insisted upon reimbursement by the Retirement Board of any salary time Kelley spent on Retirement Board business. Kelley was the only Town employee who was serving or who had served on the Retirement Board subjected to such scrutiny and reimbursement policy. See Affidavit of Contributory Retirement Board Director, Debra J. Sullivan, annexed hereto and made a part hereof and marked as Exhibit B.
- By denying Kelley the use of vacation time and reimbursement of same for sick 49. leave under Chapter 41, Section 111F, he was subjected to different treatment then any other police officer or other Town employee in similar circumstances.
- Further, by denying Kelley the reimbursement of funds, as aforesaid, and more 50. importantly knowingly and intentionally forcing Kelley to take part in a drill any reasonably prudent person would have known would be a dangerous situation physically for Kelley, Pomeroy violated 42 U.S.C. 1983, because Pomeroy sought to harm Kelley and maliciously took action against him, exposing Kelley to treatment different from other officers on the force with the intent of causing Kelley harm.
- Although Pomeroy ordered all police personnel to take part in the aforesaid 51. Columbine like drill, he did so as a pretext to cover his true intentions to harm Kelley by forcing him to take part in an exercise that would be hazardous to him. Pomeroy did so fully knowing of Kelley's pre-existing medical conditions.
- Pomeroy used the drill exercise as one more method to further harass Kelley in an 52, effort to force him out of the Police Department and to retaliate against Kelley for reporting him to the State Inspector General.

Wherefore, Kelley demands a judgment for damages, both compensatory and punitive, against the Defendants in an amount this Court deems just and appropriate with interest, and cost of this action including attorney's fees.

COUNT IV: DENIAL OF PLAINTIFF'S RIGHTS UNDER M.G.L. CHAP. 41, SEC. 111F.

- 53. The Plaintiff repeats and reavers paragraphs 1 through 53 as if expressly set forth fully herein.
- 54. As a result of having to take time to seek medical treatment, Kelley had to use some vacation time, which should have been reimbursed to him in the approximate amount of \$2,000.00. Kelley was entitled to reimbursement pursuant to Mass. Gen. Laws Chapter 41, Section 111F.
- 55. Kelley made numerous requests and demands for reimbursement for said days of vacation time to the Defendants, but was denied by Pomeroy and Plymouth through its Town Manager.
- 56. Kelley is specifically entitled to reimbursement of any benefits and rights as set forth in M.G.L. Chapter 41, Section 111F and refusal to compensate Kelley accordingly by the Defendants is a violation of Mass. Gen. Laws Chapter 41, Section 111F.

Wherefore, Kelley demands a judgment for damages, both compensatory and punitive, against the Defendants in an amount this Court deems just and appropriate with interest, and cost of this action including attorney's fees.

THE PLAINTIFF DEMANDS A TRIAL BY JURY.

THOMAS M. KELLEY, the Plaintiff,

By his attorney,

Joseph R. Gallitano, BBO # 183700

Gallitano & Associates 34 Main St. Ext., Suite 202 Plymouth, MA 02360

(508) 746-1500

Dated: March 9, 2005

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

PLYMOUTH, ss.	SUPERIOR COURT C.A. NO.
THOMAS M. KELLEY, Plaintiff, v.)))
THE TOWN OF PLYMOUTH, ROBERT J. POMEROY, as Chief of the Plymouth Police Department and Individually, Defendants.))))

VERIFICATION OF COMPLAINT

I, Thomas M. Kelley, being first duly sworn, state that I am the Plaintiff in the above-entitled action, that I have read the foregoing complaint and know the contents thereof, and that the same is true to my own knowledge and belief.

THOMAS M.

Dated: March 7, 2005

EXHIBIT A

Affidavit of Kevin P. Fahy

- 1. I, Kevin P. Fahy, of Hedges Pond Rd., Plymouth, MA, am the 8 to 4 Shift Supervisor for the Plymouth Police Department in Plymouth, MA.
- 2. For over 18 years I was Officer Thomas Kelley's (Tom) supervisor, shift commander and friend.
- 3. While working for me on the 8 to 4 shift Tom was elected to the Plymouth Retirement Board.
- 4. A short time later Tom questioned Chief Robert Pomeroy's (Pomeroy) right to receive "incentive pay" and this signaled the beginning of Tom's every movement being scrutinized by Pomeroy and Captain Botieri (Botieri).
- 5. Botieri came into the lieutenant's office and he stated, "the chief doesn't like his money being fucked with".
- 6. I was told that when Tom went to his retirement board meetings he was to be logged off duty in the daily log.
- 7. If Botieri went by and found Tom at the Town Hall he wanted to know from me why he was there; the time he went off and the time he got back out on the road.
- 8. Tom was the only officer that I know of who was monitored everywhere he went.

Subscribed and sworn to under the pains and penalties of perjury this day of June 2004.

Kevin P. Fahy

EXHIBIT B



TOWN OF PLYMOUTH OFFICE OF THE

CONTRIBUTORY RETIREMENT BOARD

11 Lincoln Street
Plymouth, Massachusetts 02360-3325
FAX (508) 830-4019
(508) 830-4170

January 29, 2004

Mr. Thomas Kelley 41 Arlington Rd. Plymouth, MA 02360

RE: Retirement Board Expense

Dear Mr. Kelley:

At your request, please accept this letter as verification that your service to the Town of Plymouth Retirement System, as its elected member, began in December 18, 1996.

During this time period, if you were scheduled to work your position as a full time police officer, and those hours conflicted with your service to the Retirement System, the Retirement System was required to reimburse the Town of Plymouth for those earnings by way of a charge back through payroll.

It has been my experience since 1991, as the Board Director, to have this be the practice in only your position. It is also noted, that there are other Board members who serve the Town as well as the System.

Yours truly,

Debra J. Sullivan

Director

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

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JS 44 (Rev. 3/99)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS-44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS THOMAS M. KELLEY (b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Plymouth				DEFENDANTS TOWN OF PLYMOUTH and ROBERT J. POMEROY, as Chief Plymouth Police Department Individually				
(b) County of Residence (E	o of First Listed Plaintiff EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINT	Plymouth FF CASES)	(County of Resi	desce of the (IN U.S	PLANTEPGAS	SE THE LOCATION OF THE	
34 Main St: Plymouth, 1		ge Number) q. uite 202		Attorneys (If I Leonard Brody, 1	Gnown) H. Kes Hardoon	ten, Esq.	s & Kesten, LLP	
(508) 746-	1500			One Exet	ter Pla	za, Bosto	on, MA 02116	
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VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	☐ CHECK IF THIS UNDER F.R.C.I	IS A CLASS ACTION	42 USC	1983 and iolation	of Plan		f demanded in complaint:	
VIII. RELATED CASE IF ANY NONE	(See (S) instructions):	JUDG E	·			NUMBER	ØYer □ No	
March 28,	2005	Leonard H			2042	Concer	Colen	
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